

1 **ABSTRACT**

2 Improved methods and arrangements are provided for use in selecting
3 candidate television and multimedia programs for recording, recording the
4 candidate programs, viewing the recorded programs, and archiving the recorded
5 programs. At the center of this capability is a time-dependent content buffering
6 arrangement that allows candidate programs to be selected by an intelligent
7 content agent, with the assistance of a bubbling agent, an electronic program
8 guide, a select library listing, and/or a personal profile associated with a particular
9 user. The buffering arrangement selectively records candidate programs in a non-
10 circular manner. Candidate programs may be dropped during recording based on
11 certain information associated with the program. For example, examination of
12 closed captioning information may reveal that the candidate program does not
13 match the initial criteria for making it a candidate program. The buffering
14 arrangement also allows the user to selectively view recorded programs on
15 demand and/or archive certain programs. Archived programs are maintained
16 locally or otherwise stored to another media. Those recorded programs that are
17 not archived will be erased in a time-dependent manner when a defined storage
18 capacity is reached. The buffering arrangement also provides for feedback to
19 various intelligent candidate-selecting agents, such as, e.g., an intelligent content
20 agent and a bubbling agent.

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